Philadelphia Feb.y 25th 1846.

My Dear Friend,

I have too long delayed the pleasant task of acknowledging your kindness and that of our Boston friends, manifested in your beautiful gift to our Fair. I will not waste my time or yours in fruitless apologies for this delay. I am sure that you will excuse it, in consideration of the pressing and numerous duties which the Cause devolves upon us. Since I have been a partner in the editorship of the Freeman, I have sadly neglected private correspondence, and other similar matters. But although we have not found time to say so, we were all very much obliged for your kindness in sending us the Bells, and also for paying the duties and freight upon Elizabeth Pease's handsome donation to our Fair. We have rejoiced in the success of your brilliant Fair, and you hearts have been gladdened by the unusual prosperity of ours, ere this. We have already commenced preparations for a far superior one, this year. I was glad to learn, from your report of the Massachusetts meeting, that the interest is unabated, notwithstanding the testimony of the Financi-

pator that there was no life in the meeting, and that the old Society is dead, or dying. We too, come in for a share of its cordial hate; I perceive in a recent number it classes our little Freeman with the New York Herald. These things, however, are trifles, which may pass by us as the idle wind. Not so, the present state of our noble Standard. A letter from S. H. Gay to J. M. McKim, on that subject has made me feel quite sad. He says that the paper "is on its last legs," and apprehends that it must "stop at the end of the year". He says, very truly, that "the loss of a central organization and its organ, will, ~~make~~ more than ever, make the cause sectional, and break the slight bonds which now hold the abolitionists of different parts of the country together." Of course, you know all about this state of things, better than we do, but the idea of the National Society dying for want of support, has so haunted me, since reading Sidney Gay's letter, that I could not but speak of it. What must be done to save it? That banner which has borne up so nobly, against the "battle and the breeze" must not go down now! I had almost said shall not, but that I feel how impotent I am to hold it up. But you of the American Committee will devise some plan for its rescue, which all of us must help to carry out. J. M. McKim is in favor of reducing the price and size of the Standard, and

making it more of a national, and less of a local paper. We think well of small papers, in this region; possibly, because our own is small; but certainly dollar newspapers are more popular now those of a higher price. The Standard is a good paper, but its value is not estimated as it deserves, by abolitionists, or it surely would not be pining for want of funds. It did not require a very great effort to establish the Freeman on its present basis, and I think we could and would do as much for the Standard. No enemy's shout of triumph must be raised over its fall!

The cause is prospering with us. We have most cheering intelligence from Virginia and Maryland, of the demand for anti-slavery publications. Frederick Douglass' narrative is doing a good work in the latter State.

Please give my love to our cousins Wendell and Anne.

Very truly Yrs.

Mary Grew.

Henry Clay says,
"Whenever the option exists to employ free or slave labor, the former will be decidedly preferred."

Mary Grew
1846.

FEB 2 1846
Paid
PAID

Mrs. M. W. Chapman.
No 39. Summer st.
Boston.
Mass.

Ms. A.9.2.22.25